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**From:** Hutchinson, Marcella  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 1:35:49 PM  
**Subject:** FW: MSI responds to Gold King Spill

Just FYI- If you have not heard of them, they are a well-respected source of science in the Animas and the for other watersheds groups in the San Juans.

**From:** Mountain Studies Institute [mailto:[info=mountainstudies.org@mail183.wdc02.mcdlv.net](mailto:info=mountainstudies.org@mail183.wdc02.mcdlv.net)]  
**On Behalf Of** Mountain Studies Institute  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 7:48 PM  
**To:** Hutchinson, Marcella  
**Subject:** MSI responds to Gold King Spill

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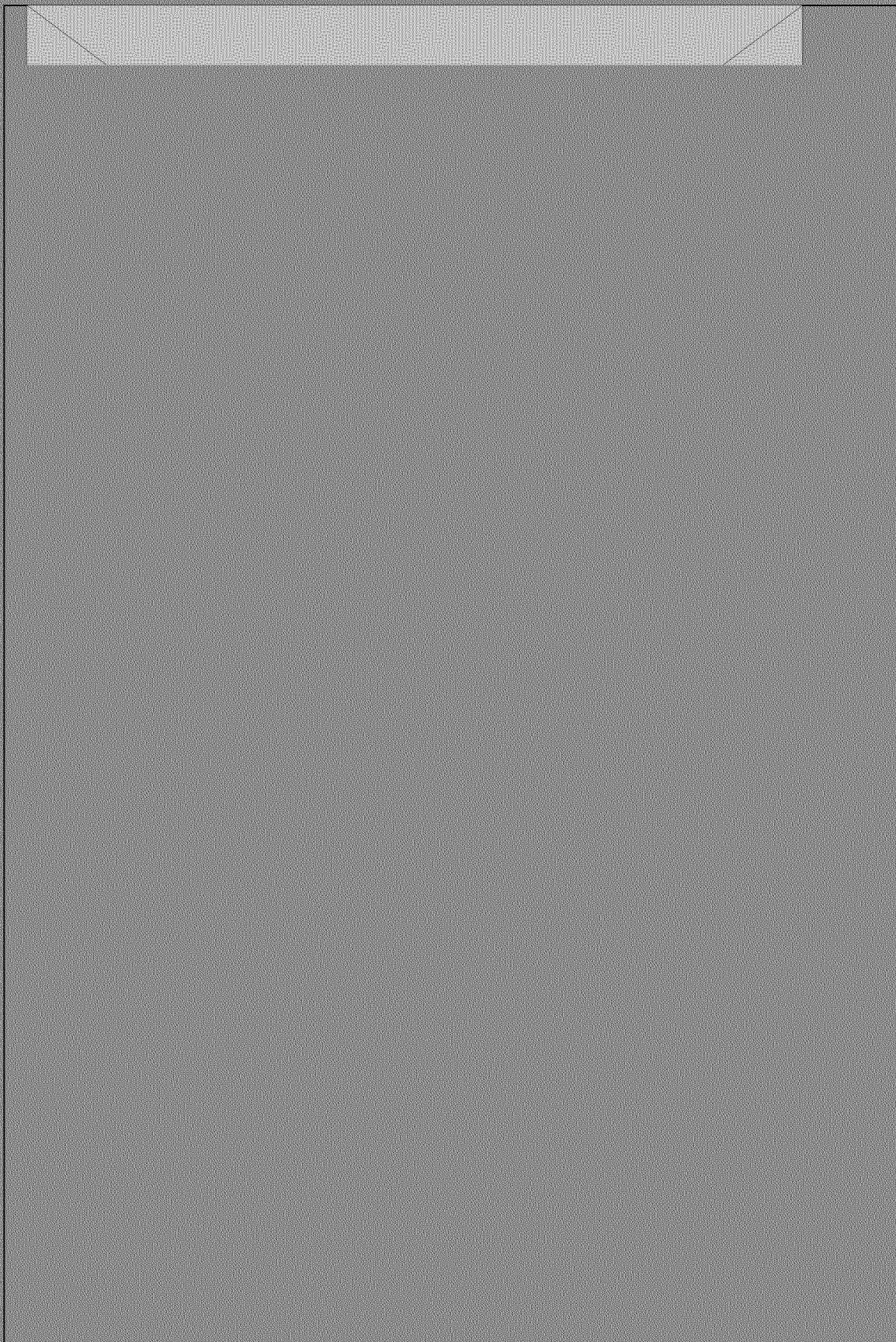
## **Early signs good for Animas River biology:**

**Macro-invertebrates hanging on 20-hours after spill**

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"We do not yet know how less dominant and larger sized taxa fared, such as *Pteronarcys* stonefly" cautions Roberts. INTRODUCE HIM, as the larger invertebrates are harder to collect. Full analysis of macro invertebrate community composition are underway.

MSI's findings mirror the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) results that fish have mostly survived the first 20 hours as well. CPW are monitoring fish in cages to see if the exposure to the slug of toxic sediment would kill the fish. However, the ability for fish to sustain after the plume of water has passed depends on their ability to find food—the insects—and to sustain any potential toxic metals that have been absorbed through their gills and skin.

"Continued monitoring may reveal substantial impacts to aquatic life over a longer period of time, but it is good news that widespread acute mortality did not immediately occur" says Roberts.

"There are two big picture items now as the plume passes through. First, we need to keep our eye on the long-term effects to the environment. The sediments that are being deposited on the bottom of the river will have an extended impact on aquatic life and the river" says Marcie Demmy Bidwell, MSI's Director. "The second is to stay dedicated to working together to respond, understand the effects, and address the issue in the long run."

Additional resources and updates can be found at MSI's website and social media: Mountain Studies Institute on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mountainstudies>, check out our website at <http://mountainstudies.org>, or contact Aaron Kimple at [aaron.kimple@mountainstudies.org](mailto:aaron.kimple@mountainstudies.org) or (970)387-5161.

La Plata County has set up a call center for the public. Call 970-385-8700. The EPA has set up a website about the Gold King Mine incident. Visit it at [www.epaosc.org/GoldKingMine](http://www.epaosc.org/GoldKingMine).

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